

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending in the application and have been amended hereby. Claims 1, and 14-16 are in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of Claims 1-16 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

Claims 1-16 have been amended, in part, to address the rejections set forth in the Office Action in paragraph 3.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1-16 are clear and definite in their recitation of the present invention and meet all requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of Claims 1-11 and 14-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being anticipated by Japanese Patent Publication 11-196081, published on July 21, 1999 ("Anzai"); of the rejection of Claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being obvious over Anzai in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,024,553 ("Morimoto"); and of the rejection of Claim 13, as being obvious over Anzai.

It is respectfully submitted that Anzai fails to teach or suggest a decryption unit decrypting data by use of the most-updated encryption key which is set by the second setting unit if the data is encrypted by the most-updated encryption key and the decryption unit decrypting the data by using the one-generation-anterior encryption key which is set by the second setting unit if the data is encrypted by the one-generation-anterior encryption key, as recited in amended independent Claims 1 and 14-16, and described in paragraphs [0088]-[0090] of the published application, for example.

Morimoto fails to cure the deficiencies of Anzai.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent Claims 1 and 14-16, and the claims depending therefrom, are patentably distinct over Anzai and Morimoto, alone or in any possible combination.

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth above, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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